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During the preceding month there were 108 cases of plague in the Paulo Candido hospital; 100 cases of variola and 1 case of yellow fever in the Sao Sebastiao hospital.

The thermometer registered 36.8° C. as the highest and 18.3° C. as the lowest, with an average of 23.92° C. for the month.

The fluctuating population during the month, taking into account those arriving and departing by land and sea, is placed at 6,157.

Mortality for the week ended December 20, 1903.

During the week ended December 20, 1903, there were in all 311 deaths. Of these 1 was due to yellow fever, of which disease there was 1 case; 7 were due to bubonic plague, of which disease there were 13 cases reported during the week; 37 were due to variola, of which disease 71 cases were reported during the week; 9 were due to malarial fevers, 60 to pulmonary tuberculosis, and 2 to leprosy. This shows an amelioration of the plague conditions here.

Deaths from plague in past five weeks.

November 22, 22 deaths; November 29, 21 deaths; December 6, 22 deaths; December 13, 21 deaths; December 20, 7 deaths.

In the Paulo Candido hospital there were 55 cases of plague under treatment, and in the Sao Sebastiao hospital there were 105 cases of variola under treatment.

No deaths from plague were reported in any of the 13 districts into which the city of Rio de Janeiro is divided, all deaths having occurred in the hospital.

COLOMBIA.

Establishment of leper asylums.

Minister Beaupré reports from Bogota, November 5 as follows:

One of the gravest questions now confronting Colombia is the terrible one of leprosy. This awful disease has invaded the country to an alarming extent, and extraordinary measures have become necessary to check its spread.

I inclose herewith a copy and translation of a law enacted by Congress, under which lazarettoes are to be established in each Department of the Republic, in which all the lepers are to be confined. Various other provisions are made, but the central idea is to isolate all those who are suffering from the malady.

For the Department of Antioquia a lazaretto is already operated at an expense of more than 3,000,000 pesos, and much other good work has been done in various sections by private efforts and subscriptions. The stipulations and appropriations of this new law will encourage further efforts on the part of societies and individuals.

Law 28 of 1903—October 20.

LAZARETTOS (LEPER ASYLUMS).

ARTICLE 1. The duty of creating a leper asylum within the territory of their jurisdiction, of collecting and isolating in it all the lepers that may reside in their territory is imposed on the Departments.